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Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 480
INFO JCS PRIORITY
SECDEF PRIORITY
CINCPAC PRIORITY
CINCPACFLT PRIORITY
CINCPACAF PRIORITY
CINCPACREP PHIL PRIORITY
13TH AFB

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 0890

EXDIS
MILITARY ADDRESSEES HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR, RP
SUBJ: PHILIPPINE BASE DISCUSSIONS: ESPINO MEETING

SUMMARY:
1. RADM MCLENDON, LCOL HITT AND CDR DEBOBES MET WITH GEN ESPINO, BGEN BOCANEGRA,AND BGEN MANIPULA AT CAMP AGUNALDO FOR 35 MINUTES MORNING OF 16 JAN. THE MEETING SERVED TO CLARIFY THE PHIL POSITION ON THREE ISSUES. END SUMMARY

2. AT THE OUTSET OF THE MEETING, IT WAS MADE ABSOLUTELY CLEAR THAT OUR PURPOSE IN SEEKING THE MEETING WAS SOLELY TO OBTAIN CLARIFICATION OF PHIL POSITIONS TAKEN DURING 8-10 JANUARY DISCUSSIONS. IT WAS STRESSED THAT WE DID NOT REPEAT NOT SEEK TO NEGOTIATE NOR TOPUT FORWARD ANY U.S. POSITIONS. THEMATTERS DISCUSSED WERE THE EXPRESSED AFP REQUIREMENT FOR 200TO 300 HECTARES AT SUBIC AND THE 500 HECTARES
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AT CLARK; GRADE ISLAND;AND AND SUBIC BAY WATERS.

3. REGARDING THE HECTARE REQUIREMENT AT CLARK AND SUBIC, THE AFP OFFICERS EXPLAINED THAT THEY SOUGHT BARE, FLAT LAND AT EACH BASE WHICH WOULD BE SUITABLE FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A HEAD-QUARTERS BUILDING, BARRACKS,AND OTHER STRUCTURES RE-QUIRED IN CONNECTION WITH THEIR ADMINISTRATION OF THE

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BASE, PLUS SOME "ELBOW ROOM". THEY STATED THEIR DESIRE
THAT THEIR AREAS BE LOCATED WITHIN THE "BUILT-UP"PART OF
SUBIC AND AT CLARK BASE PROPER AND THAT THEY BE SEGREGATED
FROM, I.E. OUTSIDE OF, THE U.S. FACILITIES. THEY ADVISED
THAT A COMMITTEE HAD BEEN FORMED WITH TWO GROUPS, HEADED
BY COMMODORE CRUZ AND BGEN ALEJANDRO RESPECTIVELY, WHO
WOULD SOON BE SEEKING PERMISSION TO COME TO CLARK AND
SUBIC FOR THE PURPOSE OF FURTHER DEVELOPING A POSITION
AS TO THE SPECIFIC LOCATION OF THESE AREAS. MANIPULA
OFFERED HIS PERSONAL OPINION THAT AT SUBIC THE AREA MOST SUIT-
ABLE WOULD BE THAT INSIDE THE MAIN GATE WHICH
PARALLELS THE CANAL, RUNNING NORTH TOWARD THE
PUBLIC WORKS AREA. (HE WAS VAGUE AS TO THE DEPTH TO
WHICH THEIR AREA WOULD GO INTO THE PRESENT BASE, AND
WAS ALSO UNCLEAR AS TO WHETHER THEY DESIRED ANY LAND TO
THE SOUTH OF THE MAIN GATE.) AT CLARK, HE MERELY REFERRED
TO THE MAIN GATE AREA.

4. ESPINO AND COMPANY WERE RELUCTANT TO DISCUSS GRADE ISLAND,
OBVIOUSLY IN DEFERENCE TO ENRILE WHO HAD PREVIOUSLY
TAKEN A HARD POSITION THAT IT MUST BE RELINQUISHED. THEY
REPEATED ENRILE'S STATEMENT THAT GRANDE MUST BE UNDER
THE ADMINISTRATION AND CONTROL OF THE PHILIPPINES BUT
ADDED THAT IT WOULD BE PART OF THE BASE AND RESERVED FOR
MILITARY USE. ESPINO DECLINED TO RESPOND TO A QUESTION
AS TO WHETHER THEY PHIL POSITION INCLUDED THE ASSUMPTION
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OF RESPONSIBILITY TO MAINTAIN ALL THAT IS PRESENTLY
LOCATED AT GRANDE, AND COUNTERED BY SAYING HE WAS UN-
AWARE OF WHAT WAS THERE. ESPINO DID, HOWEVER, STATE
THAT HE WOULD NOT REPEAT NOT BE AGAINST OUR CONTINUED USE OF GRANDE.

5. IN RESPONSE TO A STATEMENT THAT THE SECURITY OF THE
AMMO MAGAZINE WAS A PROMINENT CONSIDERATION IN OUR
POSITION THAT THE U.S. SHOULD CONTROL SOME OF THE SUBJIC
BAY WATERS, THE AFP OFFICERS STATED THAT THEY SHARED OUR CON-
CERN BUT INDICATED THEY WOULD ASSURE ITS SECURITY PUR-
SUANT TO A JOINT SECURITY PLAN TO BE WORKED OUT BY
THE PHIL AND U.S. COMMANDERS. THEY HESITATED WHEN ASKED
IF THEIR POSITION INCLUDED THE ASSUMPTION OF RESPONSI-
BILITY TO MAINTAIN BUOYS, LIGHTS AND OTHER NAVIGATION
AIDS AND TO BE RESPONSIBLE FOR DREDGING, BUT EVENTUALLY
ANSWERED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE REFERRING TO SUCH AS PART
OF "HARBOR ADMINISTRATION."THEY ADDED THAT THE PHIL
POSITION IS THAT NO WATERS WOULD BE WITHIN THE U.S.
FACILITIES BUT ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE PIERS WOULD BE PART
OF THE U.S. FACILITY.

6. ON CROW VALLEY, ESPINO AND COMPANY CONFIRMED OUR UNDERSTANDING

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OF THEIR POSITION THAT THE U.S. WILL CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN, OPERATE AND RUN THE CROW VALLEY RANGE, AND THAT THEY WOULD ADMINISTER IT FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING PERIMETER SECURITY.

7. FINALLY, ESPINO DID NOT GIVE A DIRECT REPLY TO THE QUESTION AS TO WHETHER IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE TO APPLY THE CROW VALLEY ARRANGEMENT TO GRANDE ISLAND AND SUBIC BAY WATERS. HE DID, HOWEVER, SAY WITH A WRY SMILE, "YOU TRY," WHICH WE TOOK TO MEAN THAT HE AT LEAST DID NOT RULE OUT SUCH AN APPROACH AS A POTENTIAL SOLUTION TO THESE TWO ISSUES.

8. THIS MEETING WAS CORDIAL AND RELAXED. WE BELIEVE
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THAT IT WAS USEFUL IN CLARIFYING SOME OF THE DETAILS OF THE PHIL POSITION AND THAT IT WAS HELPFUL FOR MANIPULA TO BE PRESENT WHEN ESPINO OPINED ON MORE THAN ONE OCCASION THAT "WE CAN WORK IT OUT."
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